

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for evaluation line item data, the method comprising steps performed by a data processing system, of:

displaying at least one line item from a central database;

receiving a selection of at least one line item from a claim handler; and

receiving authorization from the claim handler to execute payment of the selected line item, wherein said authorization is for a payment in a form comprising a direct payment, vendor transfer, line item payment, or preauthorized payment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of authorizing a direct payment comprises receiving an amount for a direct payment.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of authorizing a direct payment comprises the step of communicating with a back office system to issue payment to a claimant.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer comprises the steps of:

displaying an order processing screen;

accessing a database of <sup>a</sup>authorized vendors;

displaying a list of authorized vendors; and

receiving a selection of an authorized vendor from a claim handler.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer further comprises the step of receiving a selection of the availability of an upgrade.

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6. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer further comprises the step of verifying the deduction.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of authorizing a line item payment comprises the steps of:

receiving the selection of at least one line item;

receiving the selection of a form of payment; and

authorizing the transaction.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of receiving the selection of a form of payment comprises receiving a form of payment selected from the list consisting of a check or an electronic funds transfer.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of a check further comprises the step of receiving checking account information.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of an electronic fund transfer further comprises the step of receiving electronic funds transfer information.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of authorizing a preauthorized payment comprises the steps of:

displaying a list of authorized vendors; and

receiving a selection of an authorized vendor.

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12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of receiving a threshold amount for which payment will not exceed.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of receiving a selection of item categories for which payment will be made.

14. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of receiving a date range for which payment will be made.

*Substantive*  
15. A system for evaluating line item data, comprising:  
a processor for executing programs; and  
a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) displaying at least one line item from a central database; (ii) receiving a selection of at least one line item from a claim handler; and (iii) receiving authorization from the claim handler to execute payment of the selected line item, wherein said authorization is for a payment in a form comprising a direct payment, vendor transfer, line item payment, or preauthorized payment.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein authorizing a direct payment includes receiving an amount for a direct payment.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein authorizing a direct payment includes communicating with a back office system to issue payment to a claimant.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein authorizing a vendor transfer includes (i) displaying an order processing screen; (ii) accessing a database of authorized vendors; (iii) displaying a list of authorized vendors; and (iv) receiving a selection of an authorized vendor from a claim handler.

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19. The system of claim 18 wherein authorizing a vendor transfer further includes receiving a selection of the availability of an upgrade.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein authorizing a vendor transfer includes verifying the deduction.

21. The system of claim 15 wherein authorizing a line item payment includes (i) receiving the selection of at least one line item; (ii) receiving the selection of a form of payment; and (iii) authorizing the transaction.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein receiving the selection of a form of payment includes receiving a form of payment selected from the list consisting of a check or an electronic funds transfer.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of a check further includes receiving checking account information.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of an electronic fund transfer further includes receiving electronic funds transfer information.

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25. The system of claim 15 wherein authorizing a preauthorized includes (i) displaying a list of authorized vendors; and (ii) receiving a selection of an authorized vendor.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the stored program further includes instructions for receiving a threshold amount for which payment will not exceed.

27. The system of claim 25 wherein the stored program further includes instructions for receiving a selection of item categories for which payment will be made.

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28. The system of claim 25 wherein the stored program further includes instructions for receiving a date range for which payment will be made.

*ben* → 29. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for evaluating line item data, the method comprising:

displaying at least one line item from a central database;

receiving a selection of at least one line item from a claim handler; and

receiving authorization from the claim handler to execute payment of the selected line item, wherein said authorization is for a payment in a form comprising a direct payment, vendor transfer, line item payment, or preauthorized payment.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the step of authorizing a direct payment comprises receiving an amount for a direct payment.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the step of authorizing a direct payment comprises the step of communicating with a back office system to issue payment to a claimant.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer comprises the steps of:

displaying an order processing screen;

accessing a database of authorized vendors;

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displaying a list of authorized vendors; and

receiving a selection of an authorized vendor from a claim handler.

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33. The computer readable medium of claim 32 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer further comprises the step of receiving a selection of the availability of an upgrade.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 32 wherein the step of authorizing a vendor transfer further comprises the step of verifying the deduction.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the step of authorizing a line item payment comprises the steps of:

receiving the selection of at least one line item;

receiving the selection of a form of payment; and

authorizing the transaction.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein the step of receiving the selection of a form of payment comprises receiving a form of payment selected from the list consisting of a check or an electronic funds transfer.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the step of receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of a check further comprises the step of receiving checking account information.

38. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the step of receiving a selection of a form of payment consisting of an electronic fund transfer further comprises the step of receiving electronic funds transfer information.

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39. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the step of authorizing a preauthorized payment comprises the steps of:

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displaying a list of authorized vendors; and  
receiving a selection of an authorized vendor.

40. The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising the step of receiving a threshold amount for which payment will not exceed.

41. The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising the step of receiving a selection of item categories for which payment will be made.

42. The computer readable medium of claim 39 further comprising the step of receiving a date range for which payment will be made.

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